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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

(for the period from 21 July 1996 to 17 January 1997)

Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of Security Council resolution 1068 (1996) of 30 July 1996, by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further period of six months, until 31 January 1997. It covers developments since the previous report, dated 20 July 1996 (S/1996/575).

Situation in the area of operation

2. During the past six months, the situation in UNIFIL's area of operation was somewhat calmer than in the previous mandate period. Hostilities continued between the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and its local Lebanese auxiliary, the de facto forces (DFF), on the one hand, and armed elements who have proclaimed their resistance against the Israeli occupation on the other. There was a lull in hostilities from the beginning of the mandate period until the end of the Lebanese parliamentary elections in September. This was followed by a gradual increase in armed activity. In recent weeks, the level of hostilities has risen further, especially north of the Litani River. The fighting caused a number of casualties.

3. UNIFIL observed 92 operations by armed elements against IDF/DFF (5 in the last 11 days of July, 11 in August, 8 in September, 16 in October, 19 in November, 6 in December and 16 in the first half of January 1997). There were also reports of more than 160 clashes between the IDF/DFF and armed elements north of the Litani River. The vast majority of the attacks were carried out by the Islamic Resistance, the military wing of the Shiite Muslim Hizbullah organization. A few of them were carried out by the Shiite movement Amal, while one is believed to have been carried out by a Palestinian group. In their attacks against IDF/DFF, armed elements used small arms, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, anti-tank missiles, road-side bombs and rockets.

During the period under review, armed elements fired more than 900 mortar rounds, rockets and anti-tank missiles.

4. IDF/DFF, in response to attacks or in operations they initiated, employed artillery, mortars, tanks, helicopter gunships and fixed-wing aircraft. On numerous occasions, IDF/DFF conducted pre-emptive artillery bombardments, usually to cover troop movements or rotation convoys. UNIFIL recorded more than 9,000 artillery, mortar and tank rounds fired by IDF/DFF within the six-month period, significantly fewer than in previous periods. Air raids by IDF increased markedly in recent weeks, as Israel began using combat aircraft to respond to attacks on its forces. The air raids were carried out north of the Litani River, except one in the Nepalese battalion sector on 5 January 1997.

5. As before, the Israeli navy patrolled the Lebanese territorial waters in the south. Restrictions it imposed on the local fishermen appeared less severe than in the past.

6. Firing into populated areas decreased markedly, compared to the past. In UNIFIL's area of operation the main incidents were on 28 August 1996, when two civilians were wounded near an IDF/DFF position at Shihin by a mortar round fired by armed elements, and on 11 October, when IDF fired into the village of Safed al Battikh in the Irish battalion sector, wounding 13 civilians, four of them seriously. Other casualties were reported from north of the Litani, notably on 7 December 1996, when six civilians were injured by Israeli tank fire in Kafer Tibnite. At least two rockets were fired into northern Israel on 13 December 1996 and at least one rocket was fired on 7 January 1997. No casualties were reported and no organization has claimed responsibility for the attacks. The Lebanese authorities arrested two persons suspected of having been involved in the second rocket firing.

7. UNIFIL continued its efforts to limit the conflict and to protect the inhabitants from the fighting. Through its network of checkpoints and observation posts and an active programme of patrolling as well as continuous contacts with the parties, the Force did its best to prevent its area of deployment from being used for hostile activities and to defuse situations that could lead to escalation. It also deployed as necessary, to provide a measure of protection to the villages and to farmers working in the fields.

8. As reported in July 1996 (S/1996/575, para. 23), UNIFIL had obtained a commitment from IDF that it would respect a safety zone around UNIFIL positions and received assurances from the Islamic Resistance that they would not conduct operations in the vicinity of UNIFIL positions. During the reporting period, both sides showed more restraint in this regard. Nevertheless, a total of 78 firings at or close to UNIFIL positions and personnel were recorded (76 by IDF/DFF and two by armed elements). UNIFIL promptly protested all such instances to the authorities concerned. In a potentially very serious incident on 28 August 1996, IDF/DFF fired a mortar round into a position of the Finnish battalion. Fortunately, the round caused only minor injuries to a Finnish soldier.

9. The monitoring group set up under the understanding of 26 April 1996 held 11 meetings at UNIFIL headquarters to consider complaints by Israel and Lebanon.

In addition to providing facilities for the meetings, UNIFIL also provided transport and security for investigations in the field.

10. Within the Israeli-controlled area (ICA), Israel continued to maintain a civil administration and security service. The infrastructure in ICA (road system, electricity, water supply, public buildings) was improved significantly, primarily owing to aid provided by the Government of Lebanon. However, ICA remained economically dependent on Israel, where more than 2,000 of the inhabitants go to work every day.

11. IDF/DFF carried out sporadic search operations throughout ICA, especially in the villages of Rshaf, At Tiri, Et Taibe and Deir Siriane, and made several arrests. UNIFIL recorded four cases of the families of defectors from DFF being expelled from ICA and forced to vacate their homes at short notice. Reports of forced recruitment to DFF increased. All movement between ICA and other parts of Lebanon remained under the control of IDF/DFF and its security apparatus. A night curfew is still being imposed on the village of Rshaf despite the efforts of UNIFIL to have it lifted (see S/1996/45, para 11).

12. UNIFIL continued to extend assistance to the civilian population in the form of medical care, harvest patrols, clothes, blankets, food, engineering works and the distribution of educational material and equipment to poorer schools. In addition, water projects, equipment or services for schools and orphanages and supplies to social services and needy people were provided from resources made available by troop-contributing countries. UNIFIL medical centres and mobile teams provided care to an average of 3,000 civilian patients per month and a field dental programme treated approximately 100 cases per month. Throughout the period, UNIFIL cooperated closely on humanitarian matters with the Lebanese authorities, United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other organizations and agencies operating in Lebanon. As in the past, UNIFIL continued the disposal of unexploded ordnance in its area of operation. In all, 116 controlled explosions were carried out.

Organizational matters

13. As of January 1997, UNIFIL comprised 4,505 troops, from Estonia (136), Fiji (591), Finland (499), France (247), Ghana (648), Ireland (622), Italy (45), Nepal (598), Norway (484) and Poland (635). From early December 1996, an Estonian company was deployed in the eastern Norwegian battalion sector as an integrated part of that battalion. UNIFIL was assisted in the performance of its tasks by 57 military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. In addition, UNIFIL employed 443 civilian staff, of whom 121 were recruited internationally and 322 locally. The deployment of UNIFIL is shown on the annexed map. Major-General Stanislaw F. Wozniak continued as Force Commander.

14. I regret to report that a Polish soldier died of natural causes; a Finnish soldier was slightly wounded as a result of firing. Since the establishment of UNIFIL, 208 members of the Force have died: 76 as a result of firing or bomb

explosions, 84 in accidents and 48 from other causes. A total of 325 have been wounded by firing or by mine or bomb explosions.

15. The problem of the rents owed by the Government of Lebanon to the owners of the land and premises used by UNIFIL has still not been resolved. Not all owners have received payment and there is continuing controversy over the lists of owners prepared by the Lebanese authorities. Some owners have requested that their properties be vacated. For practical and budgetary reasons, only a few of these requests can be met.

16. UNIFIL maintained close contacts with the Lebanese authorities on matters of mutual concern. Those authorities provided valuable assistance in connection with the rotation of troops and logistic activities in Beirut. The Lebanese Army was helpful in defusing confrontations with armed elements. It also provided accommodation for some UNIFIL contingents while on leave in Lebanon. The Force continued to cooperate with the Lebanese Internal Security Forces on matters pertaining to the maintenance of law and order. During the Lebanese parliamentary elections in September 1996, UNIFIL cooperated closely with the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Internal Security Forces to ensure security in its area of operation.

Financial aspects

17. By its resolution 50/89 B of 7 June 1996, the General Assembly appropriated to the Special Account for UNIFIL an amount of $125,722,800 gross for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, based on an average strength of 4,513 troops and a continuation of its existing responsibilities. The assessment of the appropriation, which is equivalent to $10,476,900 gross per month, is subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 January 1997.

18. As of 31 December 1996, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIFIL amounted to $177,164,145. The total unpaid assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1.6 billion.

Observations

19. While the level of hostilities was somewhat lower than in the past, the situation in southern Lebanon continued to be tense and volatile, as Israel maintained its occupation of parts of the area, while Lebanese groups continued their attacks against the occupying forces. The UNIFIL mandate, defined in Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and reaffirmed in subsequent resolutions, remained thus unfulfilled.

20. As regards firing into populated areas, the parties exercised a measure of restraint, in accordance with the understanding of 26 April 1996. It is hoped that they will continue to do so. However, this positive development should not obscure the fact that the inherent instability of the situation and the ever-present possibility of renewed deterioration remain a cause for serious concern.

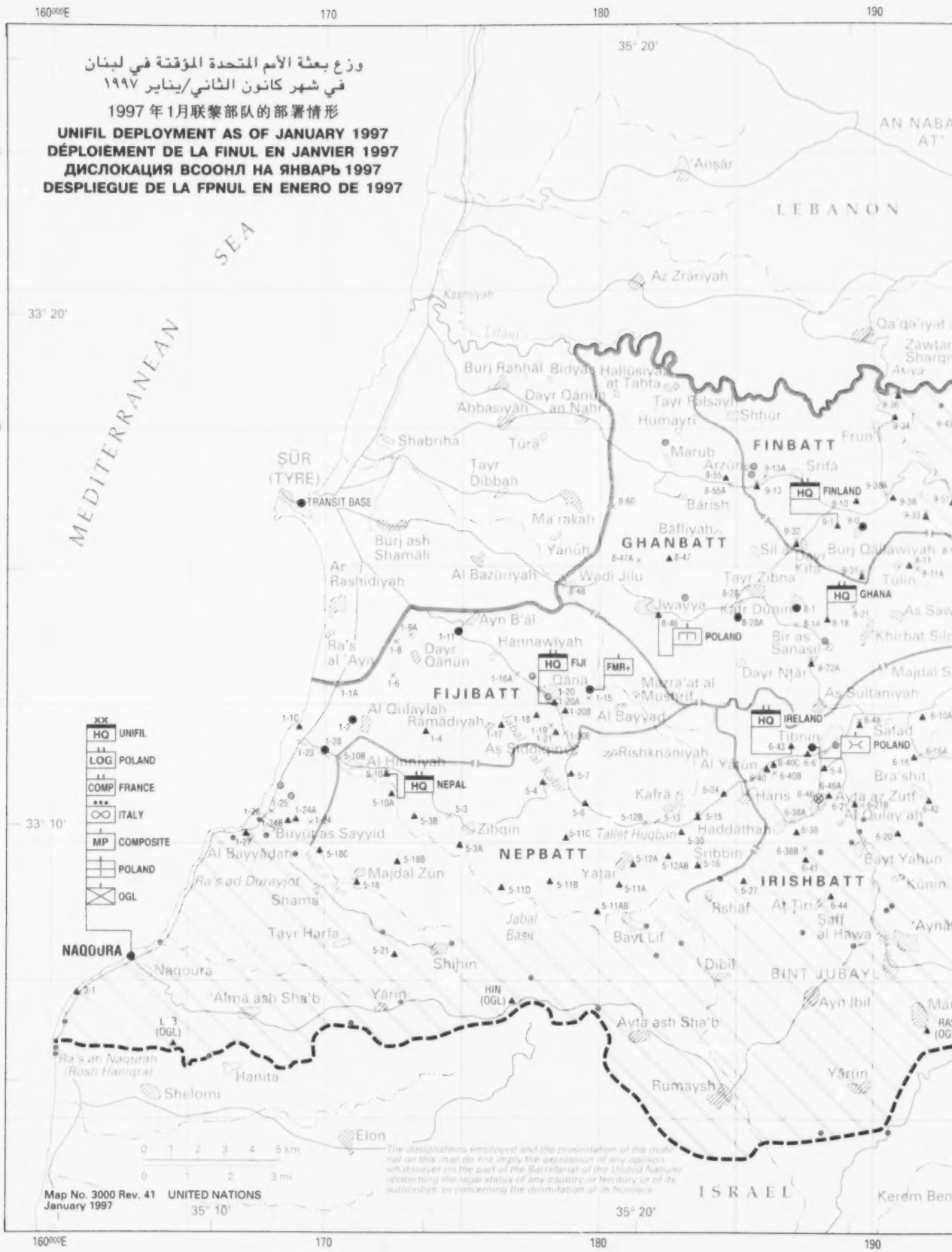
21. The Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations described his Government's position on the situation in a letter he addressed to me on 17 January 1997 (S/1997/41). He also informed me of his Government's decision to request the Security Council to extend UNIFIL's mandate for a further period of six months.

22. Although UNIFIL continued to be prevented from implementing its mandate, its contribution to stability and the protection it is able to afford the population of the area remain important. I therefore recommend that the Security Council accede to the request of the Government of Lebanon and extend the mandate of UNIFIL for another period of six months, until 31 July 1997.

23. It will be recalled that a 65-year-old Palestinian has been accommodated at UNIFIL headquarters since April 1995, after he was deported by the Israeli authorities and denied entry by the Lebanese authorities. I call upon the parties concerned to find a solution to this humanitarian problem as soon as possible.

24. I must again draw attention to the serious shortfall in the funding of the Force. At present, unpaid assessments amount to some $177 million. This represents money owed to the Member States contributing the troops that make up the Force. I appeal to all Member States to pay their assessments promptly and in full and to clear all remaining arrears. I should also like to express my gratitude to the Governments contributing troops to the Force, in particular those of developing countries, for their understanding and patience in these difficult circumstances.

25. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major-General Stanislaw F. Wozniak, the Force Commander, and to all the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have carried out their difficult and often dangerous task. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.


وزع بعثة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
في شهر كانون الثاني/يناير ١٩٩٧
1997 年1月联黎部队的部署情形
UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AS OF JANUARY 1997
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FINUL EN JANVIER 1997
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ ВСООНЛ НА ЯНВАРЬ 1997
DESPLIEGUE DE LA FPNUL EN ENERO DE 1997
160000E
170
180
190
310000N
300
290
280000N
35° 20'
33° 20'
33° 10'
35° 10'
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
LEBANON
ISRAEL
SUR (TYRE)
TRANSIT BASE
NAQOURA
FINBATT
GHANBATT
FIJIBATT
NEPBATT
IRISHBATT
BINT JUBAYL
HQ UNIFIL
LOG POLAND
COMP FRANCE
ITALY
MP COMPOSITE
POLAND
OGL
HQ FINLAND
HQ GHANA
POLAND
HQ FIJI
FMR+
HQ IRELAND
POLAND
HQ NEPAL
HIN (OGL)
L 3 (OGL)
Anşar
Az Zrariyah
Kasmiyah
Tibnin
Burj Rahhal
Bidyas
Hallusiyah
at Tahta
Dayr Qanun an Nahr
Abbasiyah
Tayr Bulsayl
Humayri
Shhur
Shabriha
Tura
Tayr Dibbah
Marub
Arzun
Srifa
Barish
Ma'rakah
Baflıyah
Burj ash Shamali
Yanuh
Ar Rashidiyah
Al Bazuriyah
Wadi Jilu
Tayr Zibna
Burj Qalawiyah
Kafr Dunin
Jwayya
Ayn B'al
Hannawiyah
Dayr Qanun
Ra's al 'Ayn
Qana
Mara'at al Mushrif
Dayr Ntar
Majdal S
As Sultaniyah
Al Qulaylah
Ramadiyah
Al Bayyad
Rishknaniyah
Al Yatun
Safad
Tibnin
Bra'shit
Al Hinniyah
As Sindiyanah
Kafra
Haris
Ayta az Zutt
Al Qulay'ah
Zibqin
Tallet Huqban
Haddathah
Sribbin
Bayt Yahun
Majdal Zun
Yatar
Rshaf
Al Tiri
Künin
Buyut as Sayyid
Al Bayyadah
Ra's ad Duraydat
Shama
Tayr Harfa
Jabal Basit
Bayt Lif
Shihin
Dibil
Naqoura
'Alma ash Sha'b
Yarin
Ayta ash Sha'b
Ra's an Naqurah (Rosh Hanigra)
Hanita
Shelomi
Rumaysh
Yarun
Elon
Ayn Ibil
0 1 2 3 4 5 km
0 1 2 3 mi
The designations employed and the presentation of the material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.
Map No. 3000 Rev. 41 UNITED NATIONS
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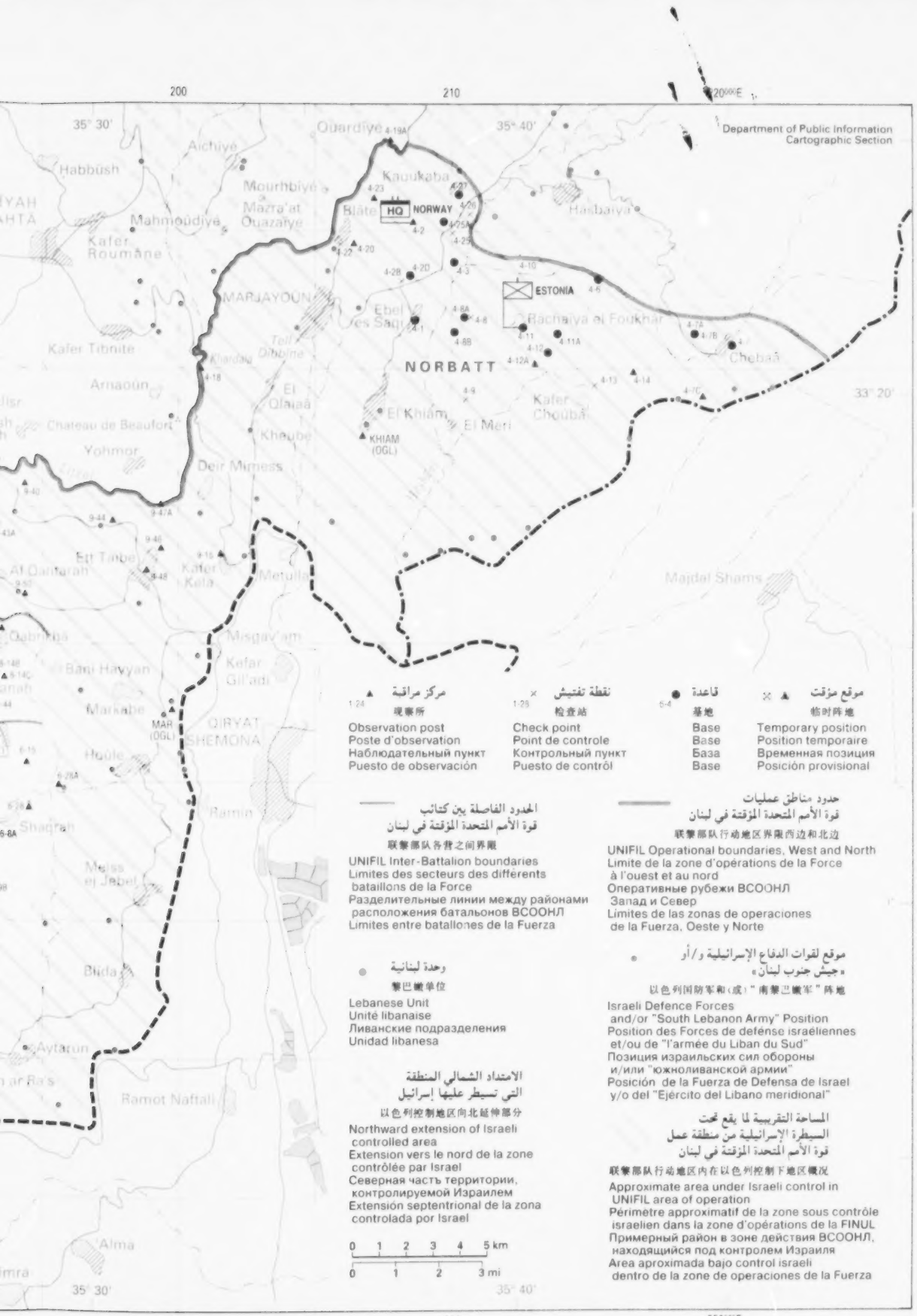
Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section
200
210
220000E
35° 30'
35° 40'
310000N
300
290
280000N
33° 20'
Ouardiye
Aichiye
Habbush
Kaoukaba
Mourhbiye
Mazra'at Ouazaïye
Blate
HQ NORWAY
Hasbaiya
Mahmoudiye
Kafer Roumane
MARJAYOUN
ESTONIA
Ebel es Saqi
Bachaiya el Foukhar
Chebaa
Kafer Tibnite
NORBATT
Arnaoun
El Qlaiaa
El Khiam
El Mari
Kafer Chouba
Chateau de Beaufort
Khaube
KHIAM (OGL)
Yohmor
Deir Mimess
Ett Tabe
Al Qantarah
Kafer Kela
Metulla
Majdal Shams
Misgav'am
Kafer Gil'adi
Bani Hayyan
Markabe
MAR (OGL)
QIRYAT SHEMONA
Houle
Ramia
Shaqra
Meiss el Jebel
Bida
Aytarun
Ramot Naftali
Alma
0 1 2 3 4 5 km
0 1 2 3 mi
مركز مراقبة
觀察所
Observation post
Poste d'observation
Наблюдательный пункт
Puesto de observación
نقطة تفتيش
檢查站
Check point
Point de controle
Контрольный пункт
Puesto de control
قاعدة
基地
Base
Base
База
Base
موقع مؤقت
臨时阵地
Temporary position
Position temporaire
Временная позиция
Posición provisional
الحدود الفاصلة بين كتائب قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
联黎部队各营之间界限
UNIFIL Inter-Battalion boundaries
Limites des secteurs des différents bataillons de la Force
Разделительные линии между районами расположения батальонов ВСООНЛ
Limites entre batallones de la Fuerza
حدود مناطق عمليات قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
联黎部队行动地区界限西边和北边
UNIFIL Operational boundaries, West and North
Limite de la zone d'opérations de la Force à l'ouest et au nord
Оперативные рубежи ВСООНЛ Запад и Север
Límites de las zonas de operaciones de la Fuerza, Oeste y Norte
وحدة لبنانية
黎巴嫩单位
Lebanese Unit
Unité libanaise
Ливанские подразделения
Unidad libanesa
موقع لقوات الدفاع الإسرائيلية و/أو «جيش جنوب لبنان»
以色列国防军和(或)"南黎巴嫩军"阵地
Israeli Defence Forces and/or "South Lebanon Army" Position
Position des Forces de défense israéliennes et/ou de "l'armée du Liban du Sud"
Позиция израильских сил обороны и/или "южноливанской армии"
Posición de la Fuerza de Defensa de Israel y/o del "Ejército del Libano meridional"
الامتداد الشمالي المنطقة التي تسيطر عليها إسرائيل
以色列控制地区向北延伸部分
Northward extension of Israeli controlled area
Extension vers le nord de la zone contrôlée par Israel
Северная часть территории, контролируемой Израилем
Extensión septentrional de la zona controlada por Israel
المساحة التقريبية لما يقع تحت السيطرة الإسرائيلية من منطقة عمل قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
联黎部队行动地区内在以色列控制下地区概况
Approximate area under Israeli control in UNIFIL area of operation
Périmetre approximatif de la zone sous contrôle israelien dans la zone d'opérations de la FINUL
Примерный район в зоне действия ВСООНЛ, находящийся под контролем Израиля
Area aproximada bajo control israeli dentro de la zone de operaciones de la Fuerza